

Teacher/Probation Officer (TPO)

Presented at Child Advocacy Days
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Long Term Data

2009 - 2013

- Average 751 delinquency cases per year filed with Madison County Juvenile Court
- Recidivism data indicates that 80-85% of youth seen in any given year will not reoffend within 24 months.
- Focus resources on the remaining 15-20%

What do we know about repeat offenders?

- 90%+ incurred their first delinquent charge at age 14 or younger.
- EVERY SINGLE ONE had a history of disruptive behavior at school PRIOR TO the first delinquent charge.

What If?

we can find a way to offer services to children and families BEFORE they ever incur their first delinquent charge?

What If?

we can help the school system with kids who are disrupting the learning process on a regular basis?

What If?

this can be done in way that is not threatening to families who are struggling and asking for help?

What does it look like?

- ◉ Licensed teachers and school counselors apply and are selected each school year based on:
 - > Training and experience in the school setting
 - > Demonstrated results in dealing with “difficult” children
 - > Communication with parents
 - > Attitude!

What does it look like?

- ◉ Licensed teachers and school counselors are cross trained on some of the same duties as youth probation officers.
 - > Mental health screening tools
 - > Risk/Needs Assessments
 - > Parenting education
 - > Community resource identification

Referrals

- Come from any public middle or elementary school in Madison County through the Principal or Guidance Counselor
- Involve a variety of disruptive but nonviolent classroom behaviors

Participation

- Is voluntary on the part of the parents
- may be offered in lieu of other disciplinary procedures that the school may have (suspension for example)

What do TPOs do?

- ◉ Communicate with classroom teacher and family and facilitate discussion
- ◉ Home visits that include parenting education to teach parents effective, age appropriate discipline
- ◉ Tutoring
- ◉ Mentoring
- ◉ Referral to community resources

Is it working?

- From July 2011 through Dec 2013
 - > TPOs have successfully closed 40 cases, meaning that behaviors have improved to a level that is acceptable to the school.
 - > At six months past case closure, 75% have had no further contact with “the system” and are maintaining in the school setting.

How do you pay for it?

- ◉ Hourly rate negotiated at the beginning of each school year plus mileage determines how many TPOs can be hired
- ◉ \$9,000 state supplement funds
- ◉ Madison County adds another \$1,000 and mileage reimbursements
- ◉ Money typically lasts from mid August to the end of April

Questions?

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